# Louisiana Energy Facts Department of Natural Resources Energy Facts Technology Assessment Division

The recent fall in oil prices reached the lowest point in mid-March 1998. On March 16, 1998, the South Louisiana Sweet (SLS) crude oil price was \$12.50 per barrel. Since then, the SLS oil price has recovered slowly to above \$15 per barrel. The recovery can be attributed to an agreement between Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, and Mexico to cut production in order to restore prices. Other producers have said they may be willing to restrict production if Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, and Mexico follow through with their cutbacks. At a recent reunion, OPEC's ranking officials decided to cut production to raise oil prices. If supply is actually restricted, the SLS price will be between \$15 to \$18 during the next six months.

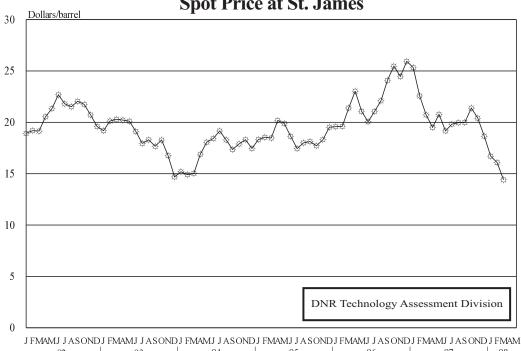
# South Louisiana Sweet Crude Average Spot Market Price at St. James (Dollars/Barrel)

Percentage

							Change
<u>Month</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	97/98 or 96/97
January	19.19	15.19	18.32	19.58	25.33	16.71	-34.03%
February	20.13	14.91	18.55	19.61	22.57	16.09	-28.70%
March	20.30	15.04	18.48	21.40	20.72	14.40	-30.49%
April	20.22	16.90	20.18	23.04	19.51	15.03 <sup>1</sup>	-22.95%
May	20.11	18.07	19.90	21.07	$20.78^{2}$		-1.38%
June	19.12	18.42	18.64	20.06	$19.17^{2}$		-4.44%
July	17.95	19.16	17.45	21.06	$19.83^{2}$		-5.85%
August	18.30	18.29	18.00	22.10	$19.96^{2}$		-9.71%
September	17.67	17.36	18.13	24.08	20.00		-16.96%
October	18.28	17.90	17.72	25.47	21.39		-16.01%
November	16.76	18.31	18.31	24.47	20.41		-16.61%
December	14.69	17.46	19.53	25.94	18.66		-28.08%
Year Average	18.56	17.25	18.60	22.32	20.69	15.56*	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Estimated <sup>2</sup>Revised

# South Louisiana Sweet Crude Average Spot Price at St. James



<sup>\*</sup>Partial year

	<b>FEB 98</b>	JAN 98	FEB 97	SOURCE
SPOT MARKET PRICES				
Louisiana Natural Gas Average (\$/MMBTU)	1.97	2.22	2.83	Е
Louisiana Sweet Crude-St. James (\$/barrel)	16.09	16.71	22.57	В
BAKER HUGHES RIG COUNTS				
North Louisiana	17	21	$22^{2}$	Α
South Louisiana Inland Waters	22	23	$22^{2}$	Α
South Louisiana Inland	59	55	32	Α
Louisiana Offshore (State + OCS)	115	117	81	
Total Louisiana (OCS included)	212	216	157 <sup>2</sup>	Α
The United States Total	973	995	8492	A
PRODUCTION				
LOUISIANA STATE JURISDICTION ONLY				
Crude Oil & Condensate (MMB)	10.7	10.7	$10.3^{2}$	
Natural Gas & Casinghead (BCF)	129.0	129.4	125.2 <sup>2</sup>	

	OCT 97	<b>SEP 97</b>	OCT 96	SOURCE
PRODUCTION				
LOUISIANA FEDERAL OFFSHORE (OCS)				
Crude Oil & Condensate (MMB)	30	30	$29^{2}$	С
Natural Gas Marketed Production (BCF)	345	345	294 <sup>2</sup>	C
UNITED STATES TOTAL				
Crude Oil & Condensate (MMB)	199	192	201	C
Natural Gas & Casinghead (BCF)	1,588	1,545	$1,558^2$	С
IMPORTS				
UNITED STATES				
Crude Oil (MMB)	265	256	238	C
Natural Gas (BCF)	241	240	248 <sup>2</sup>	C
PERMITS				
LOUISIANA STATE JURISDICTION ONLY				
Total Oil and Gas	167	143	147	
Wildcats	11	12	7	
State Offshore (Wildcats included)	9	9	9	
PRICES				
CRUDE OIL (\$/barrel)				
OPEC Average (F.O.B.)	18.70	16.49	$23.05^{2}$	C
U.S. Imports Average (F.O.B.)	17.39	16.73	22.23	C
U.S. Wellhead Average	17.68	16.44	21.09	C
Gulf OCS Wellhead Average	19.10	17.77	23.11	С
State Wellhead Average	18.17	18.53	21.60	D
NATURAL GAS PRICES (\$/MCF)				
U.S. City Gate	3.93	3.61	$2.94^{2}$	С
U.S. Imports Average	1.85	1.84	1.712	C
U.S. Wellhead Average	2.85	2.44	1.942	С
State Royalty Wellhead Average	3.22	2.61	$1.57^{2}$	

OCS: Outer Continental Shelf N/A: Not Available

MMB: Million Barrels

DATA SOURCES
Unless otherwise specified, data is from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources.
A: Oil and Gas Journal
B: Wall Street Journal
C: U.S. Department of Energy
D: Louisiana Department of Revenue and Taxation
E: Natural Gas Cleaninghouse

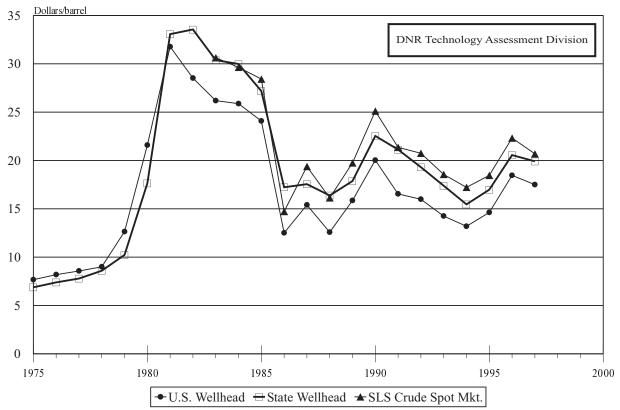
# Average Crude Oil Prices (Dollars/Barrel)

# UNITED STATES

# LOUISIANA

	IMPORTS	DOMESTIC			STATE	FEDERAL	SPOT
YEAR	F.O.B. <sup>C</sup>	<u>ACQUISITION</u> <sup>C</sup>	<u>WELLHEAD</u> <sup>C</sup>	<u>WELLHEAD</u> <sup>C</sup>	<u>WELLHEAD</u> <sup>D</sup>	$OCS^C$	<b>MARKET</b>
1975	11.18	8.39	7.67	7.09	6.88	7.51	N/A
1976	12.15	8.84	8.19	7.51	7.39	8.14	N/A
1977	13.24	9.55	8.57	8.33	7.79	9.00	N/A
1978	13.29	10.61	9.00	9.03	8.59	9.86	N/A
1979	20.07	14.27	12.64	11.42	10.23	11.23	N/A
1980	32.37	24.23	21.59	19.87	17.64	18.87	N/A
1981	35.15	34.33	31.77	35.45	33.07	35.07	N/A
1982	32.02	31.32	28.52	32.44	33.55	32.61	N/A
1983	27.81	28.87	26.19	30.02	30.38	29.77	30.63
1984	27.60	28.53	25.88	29.67	29.98	29.36	29.64
1985	25.84	26.66	24.09	27.22	27.18	27.33	28.42
1986	12.52	14.82	12.51	15.32	17.23	15.27	14.72
1987	16.69	17.76	15.40	17.97	17.55	17.54	19.38
1988	13.25	14.74	12.58	15.22	16.38	14.71	16.13
1989	16.89	17.87	15.86	18.39	17.87	17.83	19.75
1990	20.37	22.59	20.03	23.04	22.54	22.40	25.11
1991	16.89	19.33	16.54	20.14	21.13	19.41	21.36
1992	16.77	18.63	15.99	19.01	19.31	18.38	20.75
1993	14.72	16.66	14.25	16.72	17.39	16.17	18.56
1994	14.13	15.67	13.19	15.62	15.46	14.73	17.22
1995	15.69	17.33	14.62	17.06	16.98	$16.16^2$	18.46
1996	$19.30^{2}$	$20.75^2$	$18.46^{2}$	$20.87^{2}$	20.56	$20.00^2$	22.32
1997	17.36	19.90	17.50	19.50	19.91	18.86	20.69

# **Average Crude Oil Prices**



# **Spot Market Price Monthly Average**

<u>April 1998</u>

Louisiana Natural Gas \$2.27/MMBTU

**March 1998** 

Louisiana Sweet Crude-St. James \$14.40/barrel

### **PERMITS - Louisiana Jurisdiction Only**

Total Oil and Gas
Wildcats
State Offshore (Wildcats included)

February 1998
108
5

# **Department of Natural Resources**

Jack C. Caldwell, Secretary



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